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ARABIA

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MARTIN SPRENGLING

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THE NEW ORIENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE NEW ORIENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA is now completing its first year, and and it can look back upon a successful time during a difficult economic period. At the annual meeting of November 18, the following Officers and Directors were elected:

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Six monographs, listed below, have been published. During 1933 we will publish the second series of six monographs as special numbers of *The Open Court*. These monographs will deal with various cultural aspects of the New Orient, and will be edited by leading American scholars.

FIRST MONOGRAPH SERIES PUBLISHED BY THE OPEN COURT

January, 1932. The Heritage of Western Asia. Edited by Professor Martin Sprengling, University of Chicago.	July, 1932. Syria-Palestine. Edited by Professor A. T. Olmstead, University of Chicago.
March, 1932. The Heritage of Eastern Asia. Edited by Professor A. E. Haydon, De- partment of Comparative Religion, Uni- versity of Chicago.	September, 1932. Egypt. Edited by Professor Halford L. Hoskins, Department of History, Tufts College, Massachusetts.
May, 1932. Modern Turkey. Edited by Professor A. H. Lybyer, Uni- versity of Illinois.	December, 1932. Arabia. Edited by Professor Martin Sprengling, University of Chicago.

SECOND MONOGRAPH SERIES TO BE PUBLISHED DURING 1933

January, 1933. Persia. Edited by Professor Arthur Upham Pope, Director of the Persian Institute.	September, 1933. India. Edited by Professor Walter E. Clark, Department of Sanskrit, Harvard Uni- versity.
March, 1933. Russian and Central Asia. Edited by Dr. Berthold Laufer, Curator, Department of Anthropology, Field Mu- seum of Natural History, Chicago.	October, 1933. China. Edited by Dr. Berthold Laufer, Field Museum of Natural History.
May, 1933. Japan. Edited by Professor Quincy Wright, De- partment of Political Science, Univer- sity of Chicago.	December, 1933. Northern Africa.

Those who are desirous of becoming members of the New Orient Society of America are invited to apply for particulars of purposes and privileges of membership to the SECRETARY, CATHERINE E. COOK.

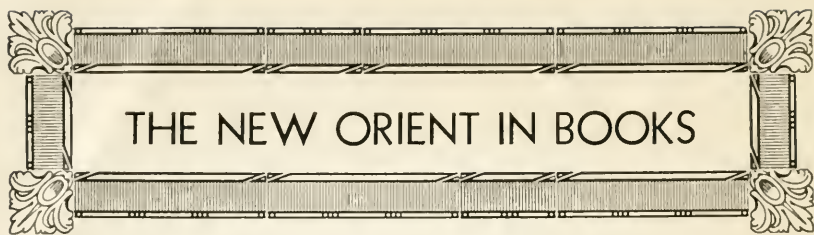
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THE NEW ORIENT IN BOOKS

Golden Phoenix. By Princess Der Ling, Dodd, Mead and Company, New York, \$3.00.

A most charming work, beautifully illustrated in colors and revealing the delicate art of China both in subject and treatment. It comes as a spiritual relief after the distressing flood of war books relating to the Orient.

The fairy tale quality of the stories has an artistic appeal to the grown-up and an entrancing appeal to the child. It makes a sumptuous gift book for old and young.

The delicate colors, the golden scents, the soft music of old world China are brought to us in these stories by Princess Der Ling. Here are fantasy and romance exquisitely wrought in tales of love and intrigue, woven around the life and customs of the Chinese Imperial Court.

Princess Der Ling, author of *KOWTOW*, *OLD BUDDHA*, and other books on China, was chief Lady-in-Waiting to the Dowager Empress when that remarkable old lady ruled all China from the Forbidden City. As no other writer of the present day, she knows this city. A delightful style and vivid imagination supplement this knowledge, so that, whether she is writing of social customs and diplomacy, as in *OLD BUDDHA*, or of the lighter and more colorful side of Oriental Life, as in the present volume, she holds her reader spellbound throughout.

* * * * *

Storm Over Asia. By Paul Hutchinson: New York, Henry Holt & Co. \$3.00.

The term "News Book" may properly be given to this very able presentation of the present unsettled situation created by the Manchurian struggle.

To those who already have a picture of the chaos in Asia, the book presents nothing new. But to those who have but a sketchy idea that something is happening to unsettle the pleasant dream of European and American destiny as rulers of the world, it comes with something of a shock.

Japan, China, India, Russia—these are the storm centers in Asia. One book is too short to give more than barometric pressure for so many centers, but within the limitations Mr. Hutchinson has set for himself he has succeeded uncommonly well. There is an able presentation of Japan's position and the reasons therefore. The Far East is still in the realm of realpolitik and events are determined by the balance of force politics. And Mr. Hutchinson properly doubts the efficacy of any international peace machinery to restrain Japan by resolutions. Mr. Hutchinson brings out with clarity, every bid for continental power which Japan has made in a generation has come to nullity. She has always paid more than she gained. Manchuria may not be an exception.

Soviet Russia's relation to Asia also is somewhat sketchily developed. Like most writers, Mr. Hutchinson attaches disproportionate importance to Russia's rôle. By reason of propinquity, momentum and a historic pull toward the East, it is a weightier factor in the Eastern struggle than other great powers. But the difference is mainly one of degree. Its rôle differs in degree but not in kind from that of Great Britain and the United States.

Of all the books on the storm in Asia which the Manchurian struggle has released this is, I believe, the best.

The Open Court

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

VOLUME XLVI

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ABD' UL-AZIZ IBN SAUD, KING OF NEJD AND AL-HIJAZ

Frontispiece to The Open Court

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THE NEW ORIENT SOCIETY MONOGRAPH SERIES

NUMBER SIX

MYSTERIOUS ARABIA MODERNIZES

BY M. SPRENGLING

IN 1904 David George Hogarth, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, published a book, which he called *The Penetration of Arabia, A Record of the Development of Western Knowledge concerning the Arabian Peninsula*. The record was slim enough. The first sentence is: "Arabia, a land larger than peninsular India, lies in the heart of the Old World, and beside its main road of commerce, but we know much of it hardly better than the Antarctic continent." The words "Antarctic continent" show that this was written before the explorations of Wilkes, Amundsen, Scott, and Byrd. This fact will help the American reader appreciate the measure of our ignorance of famed and fabled Araby indicated for just about the year 1900 by a man who was to the hour of his death no long time ago the greatest English-speaking authority on the world's general knowledge of modern Arabia.

This ignorance of our own in these modern times, wide-spread and, except for a small number of experts especially interested for whatever reason, more dense even than has been suggested, is not surprising. By its own products as known about 1900 and by its physical features Arabia is not an attractive land; it offers temptation neither to the traveler in search of pleasure nor to the colonizing settler, neither to conquering army nor to raiding host from richer lands. Throughout historic times, as we now know them, roughly for some 5000 years past, it has been in comparison with surrounding territory in the main a hot, arid, barren, poverty-stricken section of the earth's surface, the very heart and center of that camel-nomad area, which was outlined in the first monograph of this New Orient Series, printed in the *Open Court* for January, 1932. It may, indeed, as my friend Henry Field points out in his article in this number, have been very different at a time to be measured by geological or glacial periods. In some relatively slight measure there may have been continuous deterioration throughout

the past 5000 years, or pulsing cycles of changes such as Huntington believes to have followed each other¹. Some change may be indicated, as Mr. Field assumes, within 1500-1800 years by the dry wells of Castle Burku well within the western Syrian desert; but that Rome ever had a legion to spare for this forlorn desert outpost is most improbable—a manipule, or even a century is much more likely, and for these water may have been brought in from the very first. In any case there is no evidence to show that even this northerly region within historic times was ever a garden of Eden, or that a Roman garrison enjoyed being there. Likewise in the south-land, the Yemen, the breaking of a dam or of several dams is neither clear evidence of sudden or slow deterioration of climate nor other than a legendary cause for sudden loss of prosperity. Loss of prosperity was one of the contributory causes of the human neglect which allowed the dam or dams to break and which made no effort to repair the damage. Of temporal and local, sometimes wide-spread changes in productivity and relative prosperity we have, indeed, trustworthy record; but these are practically always accompanied and often caused by loss or gain in human enterprise and energy or neglect and shiftlessness. In general, aside from restricted areas it remains true for that historic time of which we have written record, that Arabia in the main is the land of the roving herder, ever unpleasantly near the starvation line. As Taha Hussein rightly emphasizes, the peninsula of the Arabs today is surprisingly like the peninsula as it was in the days of ancient Persia and ancient Rome. It was then and is now, in general, a land from which people emigrate and to which few immigrate. Even roving bands in folk-migrations from or through more favored regions, east and north and south, might be pushed in by force, but would hardly be drawn in by pleasing prospects.

About this land there hovers in the nature of man and things just one attractive force, the mystery of the unknown. This is true of the very earliest allusions to and accounts of Arabia known to us. That the people along the lower Tigris and Euphrates, after as well as during the age of flint, knew something of Arabian territory and had contact with it seems certain. Certain of the stones they used for statues, perhaps also some of the ivory and gold and silver they used, came to them from or through Arabian lands. But their references to these lands and to their traffic with them are

¹Huntington and Visher, *Climatic Change*, New Haven, 1922, p. 64 ff.



ARABIA

hauntingly elusive. My friend, R. P. Dougherty of Yale, has just attempted to pierce through the veil of their mystery from a new angle in his latest book just off the press, *The Sealand of Ancient Arabia*. After much study he is fain to confess that he has as yet succeeded but partially and much remains uncertain. A glance at the story of ancient Egypt as Breasted wrote it will show the reader that the Egyptian, too, must have had commerce very early with the inhabitants of the peninsula somewhere along the Red Sea coast. But the Egyptian did not greatly love his uncouth Asiatic brother, though he needed or wanted his wares. Hence much vagueness and uncertainty envelopes his dealings with the men particularly of the Arabian peninsula. Or take our Bibles. There is indeed the Queen of Sheba and there is in bits and fragments considerable else. Again we distinctly have the feeling of something not well or intimately known to the writers except for certain points of easy contact; but rather for the most part there hovers over their statements the vagueness, the mystery, sometimes the terror of the largely unknown. It was Greek curiosity and commercial enterprise rather than Assyrian and Roman lust for conquest and art of government which lifted the veil for a moment and gave us early in the Christian era the curious map of Ptolemy, which proves on close examination surprisingly well informed. But those who encompassed in their persons all this information were few indeed. To most men, even to scholars and learned historians in the Roman empire Arabia remained what it had always been to the minds of such as they, a region of mystery, a howling wilderness, and yet somehow, curiously, a "land of gold and incense and winged serpents."

The interest of our European forebears was not greatly stimulated nor was their knowledge increased by the establishment of a Mohammedan empire. This rose, indeed, large, terrifying, mysterious out of the Arabian wastes. But this same empire, on the one hand, closed the boundaries of its native peninsula for many centuries against all intrusion of any European curiosity or cupidity that might have existed more effectively than had ever been the case before; and on the other hand, it moved the seat of its authority from its native hearth to less forbidding lands and presently permitted its birthland, as Taha Hussein points out, to drift into a state of ignorance, neglect, and decay under the dominance of the nomad and his internecine feuds and raids to an extent which rivals

and outstrips any known state of disorder and anarchical chaos known to have existed before Mohammedan times. For a few centuries Mohammedan historians and geographers take an active and sometimes a personal interest in it. Then, until the advent of the Ottoman Turk at about the time when America was discovered, this, too, wanes, and great authorities, writing in Arabic on history and geography, tell of Arabia, except for the pilgrim routes and the holy cities, from hearsay only or from second-hand information going back in part to the ancient Ptolemy himself.

With the Ottoman capture of Constantinople comes the Renaissance in Europe, which means, even in the arts, the dawn of an age of scientific human curiosity. This curiosity, aided by the frustrated hopes of the futile crusading movement as well as by positive knowledge and contacts, acquired in these same crusades, leads to that era of exploration and discovery of which our own America is by all odds the greatest result. From America we can now look back and see the leaven working in the opposite direction. Commercial enterprise and missionary ardor, curiously combined at times with political ambition, are the major driving forces, though private curiosity and an adventurous spirit, in the last analysis, lead the way. The Portuguese are first in the field, even before the discovery of America with a voyage along the coasts of the Red Sea. It is, however, an Italian, like Columbus, one Ludovico di Varthema, who is the first European on record as having seen Mecca and the inland of Yemen between Aden and Sanaa in 1501. After this the newly discovered searoute around the Cape of Good Hope brings an irregular but fairly continuous flow of European merchant shipping, first Portuguese, then English and Dutch, and finally French, to the coasts and harbors of Arabia. With the Portuguese Jesuit missionaries enter desultorily and ineffectively upon the scene. For the most part these men are interested only in commercial affairs, few of them penetrate inland from the coast, and they leave little record of value.

Finally in the early sixties of the eighteenth century the modern scientific spirit produces a fine first-fruit in the Danish expedition which is best known under the name of its lone survivor and the final editor of all its accounts and reports, Carsten Niebuhr. Despite its pompous start on a specially detailed man-of-war there was not a vestige of warlike or political motive in the entire mission.

Characteristically, perhaps typical for the century and a half that was to follow it to our own day, the start was made under the urge of a scientific interest centered in the Bible. In the end, little or no interest in the Bible, certainly no restrictive influence of such interest remains in their work and in its report. Within the limits of their orders, of the knowledge of their day, and of their individual ability, they register with admirable objectivity what they observe and what they learn by diligent, judicious, and careful inquiry. Carsten Niebuhr's *Travels and Description of Arabia*, though he actually saw no more than Jidda, a fair share of the Yemen, and Muscat, and though naturally he left much as unknown and mysterious as ever, remains an indispensable classic to this day.

As the first Portuguese venture in the Red Sea and Varthema's account of his adventures was followed by a steadily increasing flow of merchant shipping to the coast of Arabia, so the admirable scientific venture and the fine literary report of Carsten Niebuhr and his colleagues was followed by a noble company of men, well designated by Hogarth as pioneers. Some of them had, more or less distinctly, more or less political ends in view. Among these, almost from the first, England's farseeing interests predominate. Very few of the French names are serving France directly. On the other hand, the greatest of these successors of Niebuhr, the Swiss Burckhardt, is serving or preparing to serve an English Company. But whatever their primary or secondary aims the somewhat more than a dozen men who left noteworthy record of their experiences and observations in Arabia's deserts and oases, nomad camps, villages, and cities between 1800 and 1850 spread for us a thin network of travel-routes over all its area except the most unruly southern Nejd and the desperate Desolate Quarter and filled these in with much valuable truly human and realistically natural information. The first two decades show us four outstanding men. The first of these is the curious, somewhat pompous Spaniard, Domingo Badia y Leblich, who traveled in French interests under the name of Ali Bey and made a pilgrimage to Mecca in 1807. The unattached, very able, but wholly unfortunate, Ulrich Caspar Seetzen followed him in 1810. In the second decade the great Johann Ludwig Burckhardt made a complete pilgrimage to Medina as well as to Mecca in 1814, and Captain George Forster Sadlier in the service of the East India Company made the first known crossing of Arabia from East to

West by any modern European in 1819. The third decade is recordless. Then follow in increasingly shorter intervals Planat, Tamisier, and Chedufau with the Egyptian army south of Mecca and Jidda in 1832; the men of the famous Palinurus expedition, Wellsted, Haines, Carter, and Cruttenden in 1834-5; the noted botanist in Egyptian service, Paul Emile Botta in 1836. After a brief interval the line is resumed by Arnaud and the venturesome but luckless von Wrede in 1843, and by the mysterious, learned Swede, George Augustus Wallin, in 1845 and 1848.

The picture presented is neither lovely nor romantic, neither complete nor wholly intelligible to ordinary Western eyes. But it is at least a real human thing in a real human world, no longer a howling wilderness filled with winged serpents. A great, though puritanically fanatical empire, the older empire of the Wahhabi Saoudis, rises before our eyes and establishes harsh and cruel but relatively strict and secure order over the greater part of the disrupted peninsula. The Egyptian governor of Ottoman Turkey crushes this empire and reestablishes the old nomadic disruption and disorder. Turkey struggles ineffectively to hold, to conquer and reconquer what it can, chiefly along the West Coast and to maintain by devious means, a weak semblance of order and government in whatever parts it manages to hold. Meanwhile we see with Wallin, just as we leave this first half of the nineteenth century, a smaller, less religious, more distinctly nomadic empire, that of the Ibn Rashids rising in the heart of Arabia to rival and combat the remnants of the Wahhabi Ibn Saouds.

These are the major elements of the picture which Arabia presents as we enter the second half of the nineteenth century. And these are the major features which it maintains, and which maintain it as a difficult and dangerous and not very profitable area for European ventures. Two added factors, which chiefly affect the coastline, will be of interest to the American reader. One is a passing episode, now nearly forgotten, when for a brief spell American tramp steamers maintained an almost monopolistic trade of forbidden Winchester rifles for hides in the southern region of the Red Sea coast: the rifles helped on their part to maintain disorder in the interior. The other is the growing interest of England with the acquisition of the Suez Canal, especially after the occupation of Egypt, in the entire littoral of Arabia's long coast line. This made, for the time being, little difference for the interior.

There effective political manipulation is notably absent, though a few of the venturesome noted travelers who grace this period are known to have had political affiliations and some served practical political, as well as literary and scientific ends. In the main, these men were learned men with scientific interests or charming recorders of interesting, if dangerous, travels with an eye for wide and genuinely human interest. Among the latter must be named especially two famous Englishmen, whose work possesses both literary charm and high scientific merit, the brilliant, but erratic R. F. Burton and that peculiarly charming and effective Elizabethan who found his individual way into the Victorian and even into the post war era, Charles Montague Doughty. Both men were slightly at odds with their day and generation, and both possessed extraordinary tenacity of purpose and of life; both died not many years ago, after the Great War. Their work should grace the home and mind of every truly cultured reader of fine English. In this same class but on a slightly lower level belong the Blunts, and Palgrave, and the Germans, Maltzan and Nolde, perhaps for the north also the energetic Baron Max von Oppenheim, though the latter clearly introduces a transition to a later age. Of another type, the distinctly learned man, not infrequently a hardy university professor, made or in the making, whose interest is prevailingly scientific and of general human value though his researches may in whole or in part be made in search of quite legitimate information needed by his country and his government, we will list only an outstanding seven, fairly well known, all, in the world of scholars and some outside. With no attempt at specific ranking or definite chronological order we name the curious, energetic, little Parisian Jew, Halevy; the clever but erratic Austrian, Glaser; the Swedish von Landberg in the southeast; the unfortunate Frenchman Huber, and the Germans Wetzstein and Euting in the north, eastern and central; and in the center at Mecca perhaps the greatest of these, the sober Hollander, Christian Snouck-Hurgronje, whose work on Mecca, recently published in an abridged English translation, may well grace a library table in a cultured home, and not merely a scholar's shelves, where the others of this group distinctly belong.

This is the penetration of Arabia in the nineteenth century, its nature and its extent. It finds Arabia at the beginning of the century emerging into a semblance of crudely ordered consolidation;

it leaves it at the end in a welter of disorder in the main but dimly penetrated by the expert's mind; more human but largely mysterious and unintelligible to the general reader; much of it, as Hogarth said, known "hardly better than the Anarctic continent."

In the twentieth century all this changes with surprising speed, presently acquiring something of the rate of the modern machine. In the first place there appears very early in the century in the heart of Arabia a figure as great and as kingly as any Arab since Mohammed, Abdul Aziz II Ibn Saoud. At first slowly, then with ever increasing speed and decisive direction, he builds around him an empire as great as any which has ever existed in Arabia and one which sympathetic observers believe destined to endure despite perhaps not wholly disinterested British fears and French expectations. At any rate, whether it endures in anything like its present form or not, the work it has already accomplished is well-founded and well-considered work and will certainly exert a lasting influence on the modern development of no longer wholly mysterious, but openly and clearly modernizing Arabia.

In the second place, the penetration of Arabia from the outside world takes a new turn, becomes more extensive and comprehensive, until in the matter of exploration it conquers the last wholly unknown sector, the Desolate Quarter; and, on the side of industry and commerce, it begins to carry modern scientific organization and energy and their products and with these a modern outlook on a modern world over a large part of this backward black spot on the surface of the earth.

Some of the exploration remains purely scientific or nearly so. This, too, is fuller and better prepared. The Jerusalem Dominicans, Jaussen and Savignac, the Dane Barclay Raunkiaer, and the Czech, Alois Musil are cases in point. Six great volumes of the latter's work have been published in English by the American Geographical Society under the patronage of the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts and of our own Charles R. Crane. A great deal more of this new exploration is intimately connected with political and in part military aims. This is chiefly English and dates back, as T. E. Lawrence has shown, to nominally archaeological surveys before the war. Even the excellently done and charmingly written work of the great Gertrude Lowthian Bell is not entirely free from such connection. And there is, of course, considerably more than we

know about, for much information thus gathered is naturally not intended for public consumption. All those who publish have a measure of the literary style of an English gentleman and of modern scientific interest, often surprisingly wide in range and deep in intelligent insight. Of these every well-informed man of today should know at least Captain Wyman Bury, T. E. Lawrence, Captain W. H. I. Shakespear, Colonel G. E. Leachman, Captain Bertram Thomas, and, last, but by no means least, H. St. John Philby, now become a Moslem in the service of Ibn Saoud. But there are others, as well. Some of these, too, are politically interested. Foremost among these is our own Syro-American enthusiast for Arab unity and advancement, spiritual and unwarlike, Ameen Rihani, whose books deserve to be in every cultured American home. Another is van der Meulen, who tells of the nature of his mission in *The National Geographic Magazine*, Oct. 1932. With him went von Wissmann who had previously worked together with Rathjens with almost purely scientific aim. Most recently we have, penetrating and describing difficult sections of the south, the lone adventurous soul, Fritz Helfrich. And finally we are getting, in *Asia* for Jan. 1933, a report of the activities of Charles R. Crane and their results.

With the first third of the twentieth century drawing to a close we have a situation in Arabia very different from that which obtained in 1900. It is not too much to say that Arabia during this time has come to be pretty much an open book not merely for the expert but for any intelligent American reader. Even the desultory reader of magazines like *Current History*, *The National Geographic*, *Asia*, and the *New York Times Magazine* can scarcely fail to get before him a fairly clear picture of this recently so largely unknown and so utterly mysterious land.

From a land as unknown "as the Antarctic Continent," in these last thirty years Arabia has become a land at least as well known as our near neighbor Mexico. And the land we see is, indeed, backward, as Taha Hussein points out, but its progress is more rapid than Taha's scientific modesty suggests; in this respect Ameen Rihani's enthusiasm is nearer the truth. In the North, in French and British territory, a pipeline carrying the great modern power of oil is crossing the desert from the Tigris to the Mediterranean, a

railroad is projected, automobile service, and airplane travel has become an everyday affair. In Ibn Saoud's great empire, now named the Arabian Saudi Kingdom, the day in the early twenties, when the first automobile arrived at the capital Riyadh is long past. No longer is the automobile in Hejaz limited to royal use as in the days of the Shereef Husain. Automobiles in Arabia now count not by hundreds merely, but by thousands. They preceded the casual advent of European man in Hadramout by some years. Ibn Saoud already has a squad of armored cars and tanks and was recently reported to have ordered some fifty more. These are of great use in the management of the bedouin, and this means that, with Ibn Saoud's other wise measures in helping the nomad to attain a settled life on an agricultural basis, the days of the dominance of the camel nomad over the greater part of Arabia are definitely approaching their end. It necessitates, also, if not a Len Small concrete road-building system, at least the creation and maintenance of passable roads: these have to be watched and kept in repair in a few difficult spots at least, though in the open steppe they need no great care. Taha Hussein speaks further of the telegraph. The wire telegraph is, indeed, not widespread. Nor need this be. Over the wide expanse of his domain Ibn Saoud, with the full assent of his theological council, is building a series of five or six wireless stations. These need no wires, which can easily be cut, and are much better for communication in Arabia, just as the automobile probably makes unnecessary elaborate and extensive railroad construction and upkeep. We need not speak here of schools, as Taha Hussein says all that is necessary about them. But we must add at least a word about sanitary reforms. The fundamental law creating a sanitary service for Mecca and the Hejaz, promulgated in 1926, and additional measures added in 1931 are just now being translated for the American Medical Association at the University of Chicago. Under Ibn Saoud's watchful eye these are not merely on paper. Reports of the latest pilgrimage in 1932 show that Jidda, Mecca, Mina, Taif, and Medina are supplied with sufficient, if not ample, modern and efficient hospital service, and that sanitary cleanliness, comparable to our own, is being maintained at the great concourse of the pilgrimage. Compulsory vaccination is also being enforced. The pilgrimage is decidedly less of a hazard than it was fifty or even ten years ago. An orderly, well-regulated, and supervised

automobile service between all the holy cities adds to the pilgrims modern comfort and is one measure among many to prevent them from being fleeced. It is no longer an adventure in untamed wilds to go to see Arabia. Not even in the Yemen is this the case any longer. Despite the cunning timidity and shyness of the Imam Yahya, there, too, modernization is well on its way, as K. S. Twit-



Courtesy of Asia Magazine

ARABIA MODERNIZES

chell's articles, beginning in *Asia* for January, 1933 make amply evident.

Arabia is modernizing, and it is uniting in a modern way. Partly under the tutelage of Great Britain, concerned, among other things, for the peace and safety of the Near East, partly under the urging of enthusiasts like Ameen Rihani, whose word has weight

in Mecca, Riyadh, and Sanaa, and partly by the modernization of Arab rulers and influential men themselves, an understanding between existing Arab states, despite the artificial boundaries in part forced upon them, has already been reached or is in the making. Within the last months wise and generous action on the part of Ibn Saoud, in keeping with this understanding, prevented threatening war between him and Imam Yahya, without the least outside pressure and interference. All is by no means safely attained as yet, but, as Ameen Rihani points out, wise limitation of interference by foreign powers, especially Great Britain, bids fair to create a *pax Arabica* such as has never existed in the annals of the past.

Mysterious Arabia is modernizing. No small part of it is even now, considering its late start, surprisingly far along on the modern road, and all of it is committed to a program of modernization. America has treated the Arabian Saoudi Kingdom as a modern nation by inviting its coöperation in our disarmament proposal. We, the people of America, bid new, reforming Arabia welcome into our fellowship and hail with delight the aid our noble fellow-citizens, Charles R. Crane and Ameen Rihani, are giving to the source and homeland of Islam in its long and arduous task. It should be represented at the Century of Progress Fair by something better than the streets of Cairo and the bedouin riders with Buffalo Bill in 1893; it is, indeed, an outstanding proof for the fact that this is a Century of Progress.